

What Do I Want My Judge to Know About ME?

Child/Youth Court Appearance Preparation Form

It can be a little scary sometimes to go to court. It is easy to forget things you may want to say or get nervous and not say much. Here are some questions you can think about. You can write down some things that you may want the Judge to know. You can do this alone or with someone you trust, who knows about you. You can bring this with you to court to help you remember what you want to say. You do not have to show this to anyone. If you choose to give this to the Judge, it will also be provided to your attorney/guardian ad litem, your caseworker and his attorney, and your parent(s) and their attorney.

My name and my age are:

I am living with:

If you are not living at home with your parent(s), how long has it been since you lived with your parent(s)?

If you are not living with your parent(s), do you know why?

How do you like where you are living right now? What should the Judge know about where you are living now?

If you are not living with your parent(s), are you getting to see them? How often? What do you think about the visitation schedule? Would you like to see your parents more or less?

Do you want the Judge to know anything about how these visits are going?

How are things at school?

What should the Judge know about how things are for you at school? Are you involved in any activities, clubs, sports, etc. that are important to you?

Do you need something that you think the Judge can help you with?

Do you know who your caseworker is and how to get in touch with him if you need to? Do you see your caseworker often or only a little? Is this working for you? Would you like to see your caseworker more or less often?

Do you know who your lawyer/guardian ad litem is and how to get in touch with him if you need to?

Have you had enough time to talk to your lawyer/guardian ad litem about your case and what is important to you?

Is there anyone else that you know who is helping you with things? Do you have someone you can talk to about problems that come up?

Are there things about your case that you do not understand? What? (For example, do you understand why you are not living with your parents?).

What do you think should happen to you in the future? For you to feel safe and happy, what should happen?

If you are in high school, where do you see yourself in 6 months, in a year, in four years? What will help you reach your goals?

What else do you think your Judge should know about you and what is happening with you now?

You do not have to show this to anyone. If you choose to give this to the Judge, it will also be provided to your attorney/guardian ad litem, your caseworker and his attorney, and your parent(s) and their attorney.

I agree that this form can be given to the Judge, my attorney/guardian ad litem, my caseworker and his attorney, and my parent(s) and their attorney.

I do not want this form given to anyone.

Date: _____

Signature: _____